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P. 7331

ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD

Urban District Council

Report of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ON

Enteric Fever.

ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD,

October 26th, 1911.

"ENTERIC FEVER."

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with regulations I duly reported the outbreak to the Local Government Board, and this Report is the reply to their request of October 16th, in which I am asked to prepare a "Report upon the subject comprising, in addition to a general account of the origin, character and circumstances of the outbreak, and of the action taken for checking its spread, exact information under the following headings, and any other point which the investigations made by the Medical Officer of Health indicate to be important":—

1. Date of notification.

2. Approximate date of onset of each case.

3. Date of first visit by Medical Officer of Health or Sanitary Inspector to the household where Enteric Fever has been notified.

4. Age, sex and occupation of each patient.

5. Water supply.

6. Milk supply.

7. Possibility of infection by other food, *e.g.*, shellfish.

8. Possible relation to other cases of the same disease, especially overlooked cases.

9. (*a*) Drainage.
   (*b*) Means of excrement disposal.
   (*c*) General sanitary condition of premises and locality.

10. Measures taken for preventing the spread of infection, including Hospital Insolation.

Typhoid, Enteric, or Autumnal Fever has not for some years been unusually prevalent in your district. Cases notified during the decade 1890-99 averaged 27 per annum, with a case mortality of 4·9. In the decade 1900-09 the like figures work out to 23 and 3·8 respectively.

Speaking generally, the cases over those twenty years were distributed throughout each individual year, and more or less occurring as odd cases in different parts of the Township, although the Central and East Wards contributed most in the aggregate.

In 1910 the cases reported ran much on the same lines, and the number was 27 with 2 deaths.

Taking the present year, the following list will show we had had only six cases up to the middle of August, and those at different parts of the district.

It is in evidence therefore that Enteric has maintained a persistent endemicity.

Date.	Initials	Sex.	Age.	Date.	Initials.	Sex.	Age.	Address.	Ward.	Surrounding Sanitary Conditions.	Occupation.	Adults.	Children.	Sleeping rooms.	Isolation.	Milk Supply.	‡Days complaining.	School.	Remarks.
Jan. 15	M.B.	F.	16					588, Bolton Road	E.	Satisfactory	Servant	5	3	3	H.	Reeves	...	Abram Council	
Feby. 9	H.E.	M.	19					Skitter's Grove	C.	,,	In the pit	6	2	3	H.	Condensed	...	British	
May 1	F.O.	M.	16					9, Albert Street	C.	,,		3	...	3	H.	Simpkin	...		
,, 21	W.E.	M.	35					126, Old Road	C.	,,	Irregular, delicate	3	1	3	H.	Calderbank	...		
,, 26	J.H.H.	M.	6					33, Rectory Road	W.	,,		2	4	2	H.	J. Bradburn	...	Rectory	Privy and covered ashpit.
				Aug. 30	E.H.	F.	39	,,	W.	,, (suspicious case)		...	...	...	H.	J. Bradburn and Wilcock.	...	,,	Sent to Hospital for observation—no one to look after her.
July 7	J.S.	F.	43					17, Millingford Grove	C.	Defective paving round gully.	Housewife	2	2	3	H.	Cowell	...	St. Oswald's	
Aug. 21	E.M.	M.	49					40, Downall Green Road	W.	Satisfactory	Miners' agent	4	1	3	H.	Gibbon and J. Bradburn.	11		
,, 28	M.W.	F.	25					6, Frederick Street	W.	,,		2	1	2	...	Cowell	...		Too bad to be moved.
Sept. 2	R.S.	M.	25					36, Whitledge Green	W.	,,	Miner	4	2	2	H.	Blackburn	12	St. Peter's	
,, 4	M.J.	F.	38*					46, Golborne Road	E.	,,	Housewife	5	4	2	H.	Frost	13	St. Luke's	
				Sept. 6	T.J.	M.	11	,,	E.	,,		...	...	...	H.	,,	8	,,	
				,, 13	R.J.	M.	6	,,	E.	,,		...	...	...	H.	,,	...	,,	
				,, 19	E.J.	M.	13	,,	E.	,,		...	...	...	H.	,,	3	,,	
				,,	R.J.	F.	2	,,	E.	,,		...	...	...	...	,,	...	,,	Was soon all right.
				,, 25	E.A.J.	F.	8	,,	E.	,,	School	...	...	...	H.	,,	4	,,	
				,, 26	I.J.	M.	18	Lodger, ,,	E.	,,	Miner	...	...	...	H.	,,	9	,,	
				Oct. 3	J.H.J.	M.	15	,,	E.	,,	Pit pony driver	...	...	...	H.	,,	9	,,	
				,, 14	J.R.	M.	37	Lodger, ,,	E.	,,	Contractor in pits	...	...	...	H.	,,	10	,,	

**Deaths.*
†Not Typhoid; sent home this week end.
‡These figures indicate number of days stated to have been complaining prior to admission.

Date.	Initials.	Sex.	Age.	Date.	Initials.	Sex.	Age.	Address.	Ward.	Surrounding Sanitary Conditions.	Occupation.	Adults.	Children.	Sleeping rooms.	Isolation.	Milk Supply.	‡Days comp'ning.	School.	Remarks.
Sp. 4	J.M.	M.	39*					Lily Farm, B.R.	E.	,,		2	...	3	H.	Own (Mather, *vide* supra)	9	,,	
,, 7	A.C.	F.	48*					19, Sougher's St., Park Lane	W.	,,		5	2	2	H.	Bolton	8	D.G. R. Catholic	Sent in with Pneumonia.
,, 11	M.E.T.	F.	22					41, Bryn Road	N.	,,	Pit brow	5	4	3	H.	T. Lowe	8	D.G. & P.L. R. C.	
,, 11	O.T.	M.	6					,,	N.	,,		...	...	...	H.	,,	6	,,	
,, 11	A.T.	F.	8					,,	N.	,,		...	...	...	H.	,,	5	,,	
,, 12	K.T.	F.	13					,,	N.	,,		...	...	...	H.	,,	...	,,	
,, 13	T.T.	M.	48*					,,	N.	,,	Miner	...	...	...	H.	,,	14		
,, 15	J.T.	M.	20					,,	N.	,,	In the pit	...	...	...	H.	,,	...		
,, 11	E.F.	F.	14					26, Golborne Road	E.	,,	Factory	3	2	2	H.	Halsall	...	St. Oswald's	
,, 12	T.C.	M.	15					53, Bryn Road	N.	,,		7	...	3	H.	Phythian and Blackburn	9	St. Peter's	
,, 13	M.L.	F.	7					49, Warrington Road	C.	Unpaved Common Yard.		2	2	2	H.		4	St. Thomas'	
,, 13	B.W.	F.	9					401, Wigan Road	W.	Satisfactory		5	3	3	H.	T. Lowe	9	P.L. Unitarian	
,, 14	E.S.	F.	16					270, Wigan Road	N.	,,	Chip shop at home	3	1	3	H.	Gibbon's	10	D.G. R. Catholic	
,, 14	J.P.	M.	30					277, Bryn Road	N	,,	Miner	2	2	2	H.		6		
,, 15	J.D.	M.	11					356, Downall Green Road	N.	,,	School	2	4	2	H.	Wilcock	6	D.G. R. Catholic	
,, 21	E.H.	F.	8					447, Bryn Road	E.	,,		2	4	3	...	Eccles	...	British	
,, 21	H.S.S.	M.	6					33, Bryn Road	N.	Drains blocked in wet weather.		5	3	3	H.	Lowe	...	St. Peter's	
,, 24	E.W.	F.	28					264, Wigan Road	N.	Short waste pipe	Weaver	2	...	3	H.	,,	5		

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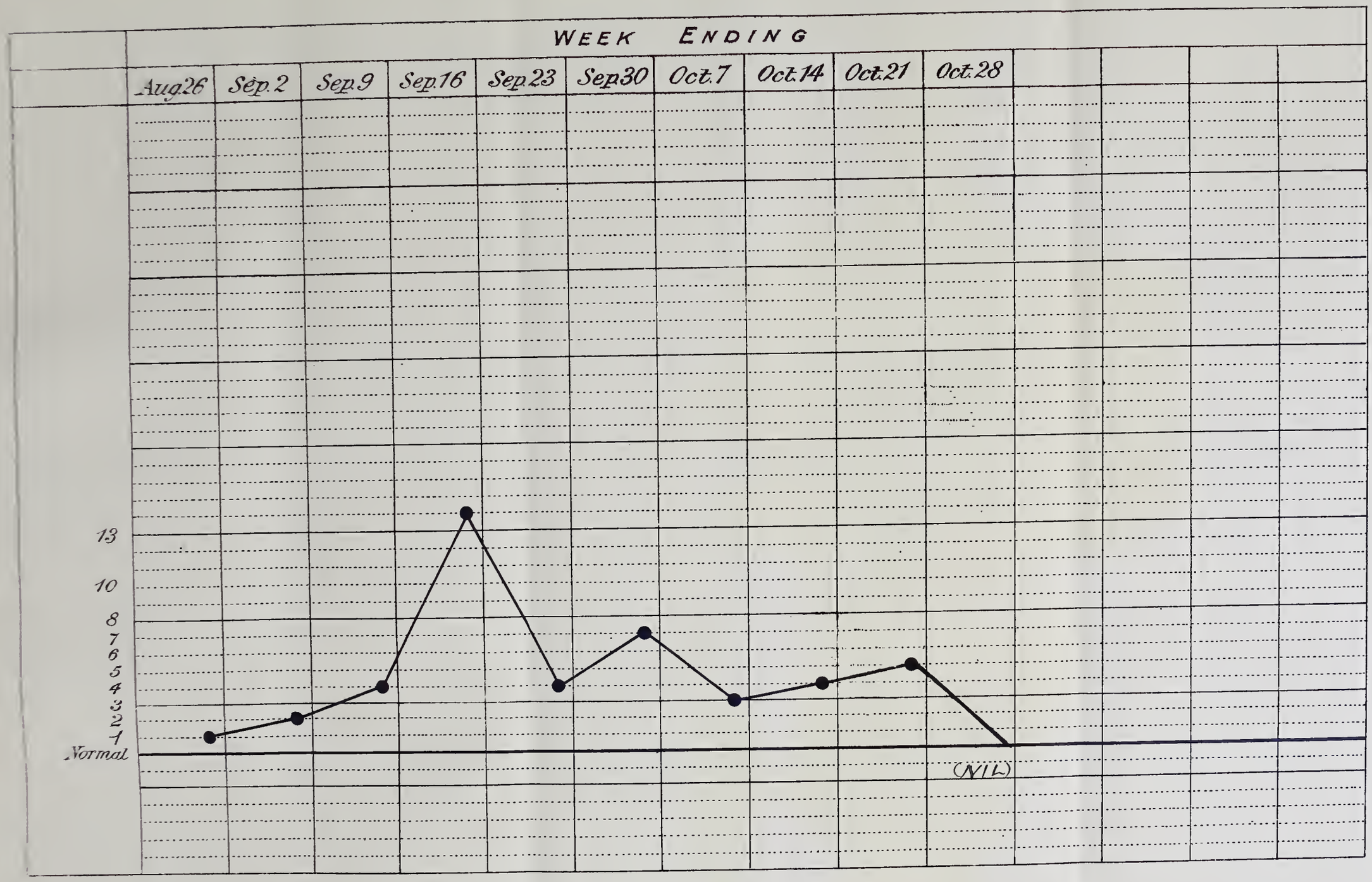
...e.	Initials.	Sex.	Age.	Date.	Initials.	Sex.	Age.	Address.	Ward.	Surrounding Sanitary Conditions.	Occupation.	Adults.	Children.	Sleeping rooms.	Isolation.	Milk Supply.	‡Days comp'ning.	School.	Remarks.
								37, Bryn Road	N.	Drainage flat	Engine cleaner.....	6	2	3	H.	.....	...	D.G. R. Catholic ...	
26	T.T.	M.	16					315, Bolton Road	E.	Overcrowded	Helps mother.....	8	5	2	H.	Halsall	15	St. Luke's.....	
27	F.Y.	F.	15					390, Bolton Road	E.	Satisfactory	Weaver	4	3	2	H.	Halsall and Mather.	7	British.....	
29	A.K.	F.	13					338, Bolton Road	E.	Second-hand clothes, walls damp and plaster off in places.	.....	3	1	2	H.	.....	12	.....	
30	S.S.	F.	23					31, Old Road	C.	Satisfactory	Tailoress	8	...	3	H.	Hurst	21	.....	
1	B.G.	F.	18					6, Golborne Road	E.	"	Factory	4	4	2	H.	"	5	.....	
5	J.P.	M.	13					44, Golborne Road	E.	"	Drawer	2	2	2	H.	.....	23	St. Thomas'	
9	S.P.	M.	24					8, Lily Place	C.	Requires cleaning.....	Collier	4	5	3	...	.....	...	"	
11	W.M.	M.	42					Purely Pneumonia, died.											
								487, Bolton Road	E.	Satisfactory	Housewife.....	2	2	3	H.	Mather (*vide* supra)	9	St. Luke's.....	
11	J.W.	F.	26					123, Heath Road	C.	"	Collier	3	1	2	H.	Plunkett	8	St. Thomas'	
16	W.H.	M.	34					301, Wigan Road	W.	"	.....	...	...	...	...	.....	...	.....	
17	M.S.	F.	70					66, Golborne Road	E.	"	Outdoor license ...	7	...	3	H.	Hurst & Halsall ...	28	.....	
17	J.H.	M.	66					158, Old Road	C.	"	Factory	6	1	3	H.	Condensed	...	British.....	Became sick last Sunday after chocolates.
18	J.T.	F.	17†																
				Oct. 18	M.T.	F.	15	"	C.	"	"	...	...	...	H.	"	4	"	
				" 19	M.S.	F.	23	(See September 2nd above)			.....	...	...	...	H.	.....	12	.....	


WEEK ENDING
Aug.26
Sep.2
Sep.9
Sep.16
Sep.23
Sep.30
Oct.7
Oct.14
Oct.21
Oct.28
13
10
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
Normal
(NIL)

Eliminating two cases (E.H., August 30th, and W. M., October 11th), we had some 43 cases in all, concerning 29 houses. There were three instances of multiple cases, *i.e.*, more than one case in the same house.

Coming to August 21st, after a quiesence of six weeks we get one case for the week ending August 26th; and the chart appended will show the weekly rise and fall so far. The table points out where two chief groups occurred—widely apart from each other and at houses thickly peopled. On going down the column referring to number of occupants and sleeping accommodation, there are some half dozen others almost as bad conditions.

Ward Incidence.

Houses in Central, 4; West, 6; East, 11; North, 8.

On receipt of notification the Sanitary Inspector goes the same day, or next morning, with any suggestions or instructions that the Medical Officer of Health thinks advisable and removal is practically carried out immediately. I, myself, gave special enquiry as to a second-hand clothes selling place.

Water Supply.—With the exception of the higher reaches of the district—Garswood, Downall Green and Brockstedes—the whole of the water supply has been from Liverpool (Rivington) covering the whole area under review, so that if this supply was in question would not more cases generally have arisen?

Milk Supply.—In so much as there were about 14 different supplies—so much variation in the house supply—it may be absolutely excluded in any association as to cause. Regarding other food stuffs, there has been nothing elicited to connect any such; and absence of fish shells (oyster or other sorts) in ashpits confirms the view of a very limited consumption. I have not heard of any case of illness arising through tinned meats, or "ptomaine poisoning."

Possible relation to other cases of same disease, especially overlooked cases. We have had a large amount of Diarrhœa (all ages included), and as this runs collaterally it is very possible typhoid stools and overlooked cases may have played some part in connection with this outbreak.

Habits of the youngsters defecating in the yard and adjacent spots lead no doubt to this being thrown to the contents of the ashpits, and to such may probably be added by this addition *typhoid excreta.*" An eminent Authority says : " We have always ' typhoid stools ' existent."

(*a*) *Drainage.*—As has been referred to in my annual reports we have experienced, and experience now, very considerable trouble with the main sewers, as also some of the house drains, owing to subsidences through mining operations. At Bryn Road the drains at a block (including Nos. 33, 39, 41 and 53—see list) get backed up during wet weather and floods the yards.

(*b*) *Excrement Disposal* is by tips at different parts of the Township. Ashpits are emptied outside on to the ground, or pavement as may be, and then carted to tip—riddled, and the contents of the pails (excreta and urine) mixed : resultant sold as manure. In quite a number a double area of surface is subjected to pollution where wheeling in barrows has to be resorted to through there being no access for the carts.

(*c*) Although the general condition of premises and locality are on the whole fair, yet with house-to-house inspection, which we carry out, it is found that cracks and fissures through subsidences exist ; damp walls, and perished conditions of the plaster.

With regard to measures taken for preventing its spread, the cases throughout have been siolated in our Hospital at Bryn (Long Lane), without delay at all, luckily through the Hospital being almost free from other trouble ; and added to this, I have No. 2 in perfect readiness for other cases, if need be, at once. Houses have been attended to quite in order ; also stoving of clothes, &c.

And in any instance of a case *not* being isolated in Hospital, a special pail with cover is supplied; also "Izal" as a disinfectant to the evacuations, and attended to every other day by the instructions from me to the Sanitary Inspector. As a matter of fact at the time of writing all cases are in Hospital.

In conclusion, my humble opinion is, as I at first thought and said, the sudden influx of cases as indicated in the weekly chart was due to elevation of the ground air following the sharp rainfall in early August; and the general prevalence of this illness throughout the country seems to be confirmatory. True, where overcrowding existed, there seems to have been, to my mind, a special personal infectivity; and singular to say so far there has been little, if any, of the Diarrhœal trouble in the train of those attacked.

I remain, Sir and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

N. HANNAH,

Medical Officer of Health.
Medical Superintendent of Hospital.

4 APR 1922